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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: NOVEL PROCESS FOR PREPARING A 5-HYDROXY-3-OXO-HEXANOIC ACID DERIVATIVE

(57) Abstract: The present invention is related to a novel process for preparing an optically active 5-hydroxy-3-oxo-hexanoic acid derivative or its tautomer which is useful intermediate for preparing statins such as atorvastatin and rosuvastatin. Blaise reaction of (S)-4-halo-3-hydroxybutyronitrile with -haloacetate is utilized as a key reaction to provide the product with minimal formation of side products and in good yield.

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